



Resilience  
Multi Academy  
Trust



The  
**Featherstone  
Academy**

# TRANSITION GUIDE

# 20

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# INTRODUCTION

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This guide has been carefully created in order to provide families of children moving into Year 7 with as much information and advice as possible so that the transition from primary to secondary is as smooth and stress free as it can be.

## **Chronological layout**

The guide has been put together in a very specific way so that you can move through the pages in a chronological manner; the information at the front of the booklet you will need now, moving through the pages towards information you will need for August 2026.

## **Additional information**

Should you have any further questions which are not answered in this guide, please feel free to contact Mr A Robinson, Assistant Principal (Transition Lead) who will be happy to assist.

Tel: 01977 698000

Email: [admin@featherstone.academy](mailto:admin@featherstone.academy)

# WELCOME FROM THE PRINCIPAL

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I am so proud to welcome you - parents, carers and students of our 2026 Year 7 cohort - to The Featherstone Academy, part of Resilience Multi Academy Trust. The start of any school year is filled with anticipation, eagerness, and a small amount of nerves. We recognise this and want to make the transition to Featherstone as smooth as possible.

The Featherstone Academy prides itself on being a welcoming and supportive secondary school; offering places to any student aged 11 to 16 years of age, from all backgrounds and experiences. We work hard to ensure that all students feel safe and included in our diverse community. At our academy, we all take responsibility for all we do, have high aspirations and take pride in where we are from.

In March 2022, Featherstone was recognised by Ofsted as being an Academy which was GOOD in all areas. It was described in the Ofsted inspection report that "staff understand the community which they serve" and the curriculum is "well designed" and "for everyone".

We encourage our students to work hard, make mistakes, learn from them, and keep trying. We believe that our 'growth mindset' is the reason that the Academy "develops pupils as individuals as well as enabling their academic success" and that "everyone is pulling in the same direction for pupils". Our staff are warm, supportive and work incredibly hard to enable every child to succeed.

We are also a part of Resilience Multi Academy Trust and, as such, we are committed to providing the highest possible opportunities to all children in our community. Part of this commitment means that we expect the highest standards of behaviour, discipline and respect – not just for the colleagues in our Academy, but also towards themselves and each other. It is due to these pillars of expectation that we are able to deliver a high quality curriculum for all our students.

Our focus on collaboration with the wider scope of the RMAT means that we are able to continue to seek the best paths for our students, regardless of their starting points. Our Trust is at the forefront of school improvement, and is driven by a core purpose of high expectations on student learning, well-being, and achievement. We recognise that achievement comes in many forms, and work with each student individually to ensure that they are able to attain the highest success possible for themselves.

We are very much looking forward to working closely with all our new students and their families.

## Julia McCluskey



From Year 7, our students are taught to be resilient in a dynamic, innovative curriculum that responds to educational research and the needs of our young people. Students have opportunities to learn how to be resilient in the face of difficulties and failure in lessons, clubs, activities and sports and independence found at our Resilience Camp. We teach them that with determination, improvement is not only likely - it is inevitable.

# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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The dates below are key events that will take place between now and when your child joins us in August 2026. The events are displayed chronologically and the following pages give more information about each event.



## July

Transition Days - Students only  
Tuesday 30 June 2026 and Wednesday 1 July 2026  
9.00am until 2.20pm each day



## July

Transition Evening - Parents, Carers and Students  
Tuesday 30 June 2026  
5.00pm (prompt) until 7.00pm



## August

First day of school  
Tuesday 25 August 2025  
Doors open 8.00am; Movement Bell 8.10am; Registration 8.15am

PLEASE NOTE THAT WE HAVE **DIFFERENT TERM DATES** TO OTHER SCHOOLS IN THE WAKEFIELD DISTRICT

## The Featherstone Academy

## Academic Calendar 2026-2027

August 2026							September 2026							October 2026							November 2026						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
					1	2		1	2	3	4	5	6				1	2	3	4							1
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30					26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28	29
31																					30						

December 2026							January 2027							February 2027							March 2027						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6					1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
28	29	30	31				25	26	27	28	29	30	31								29	30	31				

April 2027							May 2027							June 2027							July 2027						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
			1	2	3	4						1	2		1	2	3	4	5	6				1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30					26	27	28	29	30	31	
							31																				

 GCSE Results Day

 School Open

 School Closed

 Training Day (school closed to students)

 Bank Holiday (school closed)

# TRANSITION DAYS AND START OF TERM ARRANGEMENTS

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All new students are expected to attend both transition days at The Featherstone Academy on **Tuesday 30 June and Wednesday 1 July 2026**. They will need to arrive for 9.00am and will finish on both days at 2.20pm. **Students should wear the uniform from their current primary school and bring with them a pencil case containing a black pen, pencil, rubber and ruler.**

This will be the first opportunity for all students to experience life at high school. They will meet their form tutor and get to know other students in their form. They will spend time getting to know each other, become familiar with the academy and enjoy some fun resilience activities. **Students should bring a packed lunch and a refillable water bottle.** Please note fizzy drinks, cans and energy drinks are not permitted on site. **Mobile phones must be switched off and kept in their bag at all times.**

These days provide the perfect opportunity for you and your child to work out how to get to and from school. **Parents are requested not to enter the school site at the start or end of the day** but are very welcome to meet their children at the gate should they wish to. Please note that unless your child has a disability there is no access to the school grounds for parent/carer vehicles - this is to ensure the safety of our students.

## START OF TERM - TUESDAY 25 AUGUST 2026

The new academic year starts on Tuesday 25 August 2026. Students should make their way to school as normal and enter via the Student Entrance where they will be met by their form tutors and Head of Key Stage 3.

Students should be dressed in their full academy uniform and have all the required equipment with them including their PE kit.

If you would like your child to have a school lunch, could you please ensure they bring cash with them as the ParentPay system will not be activated until after the students are placed on roll. Further details and log in information will be provided as soon as possible during their first week.

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# KEY STAFF



**Mrs McCluskey**  
Principal



**Mr Paddy**  
Vice Principal



**Miss Ballance**  
Safeguarding & Welfare



**Mrs Howarth**  
Assistant Principal



**Mr McColl**  
Assistant Principal



**Mr Robinson**  
Assistant Principal  
(Transition Lead)



**Mr Dunning**  
Head of Key Stage 3



**Mr Eaton**  
Pastoral Lead



**Miss Kelso**  
Head of Key Stage 4



**Mrs Mumby**  
Senior SENDCO



**Miss Hughes**  
SENDCO



**Miss Pirie**  
Attendance Officer

**HELP**



You can go to any of these people at  
any time for help if you need it

# COMMUNICATION

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## 01 — Newsletter

Newsletters are issued electronically every half term to parents and highlight important information relating to academy procedures and showcase the achievements and successes of our students.



## 02 — Social Media

Instagram is updated on a regular basis and again highlights the many activities your children and the academy are involved in. Please follow us @thefeatherstoneacademy



## 03 — Arbor Parent App

We are committed to communicating with our parents in the best possible way. The Arbor Parent App will allow you to see messages and links to letters as well as key information such as Parents' Evenings, events and timetables. This will be our main communication tool from August 2026

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# ARBOR PARENT APP

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The Arbor Parent Portal and Parent App are designed to help you stay connected with your child's school life.

You can use them to:

- Monitor your child's attendance, behaviour, and academic progress
- Book parent's evening appointments
- Manage payments for school activities



Arbor

## UNDERSTANDING THE DIFFERENCE: PORTAL VS APP

It's important to know the difference between the two ways you can access Arbor:

- **Arbor Parent Portal:** This is the website version you access using a web browser (like Chrome, Firefox, Safari, Edge) on a computer, laptop, or even your phone's browser.
- **Arbor Parent App:** This is the mobile application you download to your smartphone or tablet from your device's app store (Google Play Store for Android, Apple App Store for iOS).

**Crucial Note for First-Time Users:** You must set up your password and accept the terms of use through the Parent Portal (website) first. You cannot do this through the app.

For full details of how to log into Arbor Parent Portal or Parent App,  
please follow the links below:

[Quick Introduction to Arbor](#)

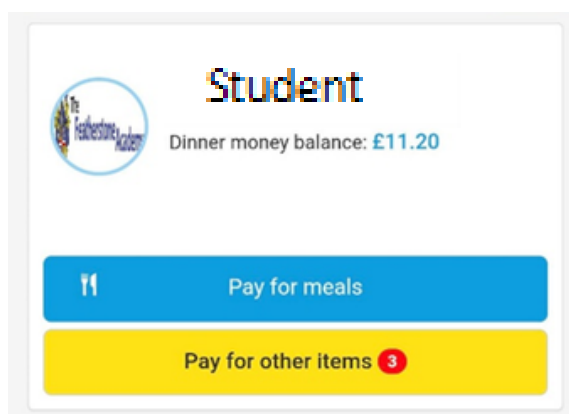
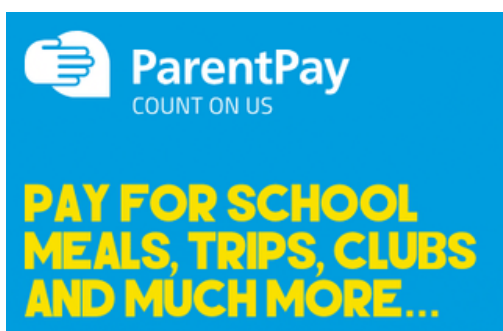
[Logging In to the Parent Portal & Parent App](#)

# PARENTPAY

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Paying for everything at The Featherstone Academy is done using the Parent Pay cashless system. The school cannot routinely handle cash or cheques and the purchasing of everything from equipment to school trips to school dinners must be through this system.

When your child is enrolled at The Featherstone Academy, we will generate a welcome letter that will be given to your child to take home. We can only do this if we have the correct email address for the person who will be making payment – please ensure accuracy on the data collection form.



## Snacks and Lunches

Wherever possible, please use Parent Pay to transfer money for food purchases. It can take up to 24 hours for the funds to appear on the cashless system, so please ensure that money is topped up in advance.

At the start of the school year, your child's fingerprint will be used to link the Parent Pay app to the school catering systems. This will allow parents/carers to monitor the purchases of food in school.

Should there be an emergency, the school have 'fingerprint machines' that allow students to load cash onto their account without using ParentPay. Whilst students can use these during their break and lunch, it is always recommended that students do not bring large amounts of cash into school.



We offer a full canteen style service throughout the day. Breakfast is served from 8am-8.10am. There is a full snack service at break (11.15am-11.35am) and a range of hot and cold choices available at lunch (12.50pm-13.15pm). The Featherstone Academy encourages students to make healthy eating choices. Students may also bring a packed lunch if they prefer.

# UNIFORM SUPPLIER

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The Featherstone Academy crested blazer, academy tie and academy PE top can only be purchased from our official supplier:

**Better & Bright**  
schoolwear

Better and Bright Schoolwear  
19 Salter Row  
Pontefract  
WF8 1AU  
Tel: 07486140776

All other non-branded uniform items and non-branded PE items can also be purchased from our official supplier or from other retail outlets such as supermarkets and high street stores.

**Please note** that all non-branded uniform items - especially skirts and trousers - must comply with our uniform standards which are clearly stated on the next page.

Failure to adhere to our uniform standards will result in sanctions being issued in line with our Academy Positive Discipline Policy

# ACADEMY UNIFORM

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The Featherstone Academy uniform should be worn with pride on the way during the school day. The 'school day' is deemed to include all activities after school, and walking to and from school.

## Compulsory uniform items for all students



Navy Crested Blazer



White shirt **or** blouse with a top button  
(long and short sleeves permitted)



Academy Tie



Charcoal Grey Tailored  
Trousers



Charcoal Grey Tailored  
**or** Knee-Length Skirt

**All trousers - boys and girls - must be straight leg and tailored material**  
Fitted / stretchy / jersey / legging-style trousers are not allowed

**All skirts must be knee-length and tailored material**  
Stretchy / jersey material is not allowed

# ACADEMY UNIFORM

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Compulsory uniform items for all students



Black shoes (boys)



Black shoes (girls)

**When buying shoes please be aware of the following:**

- Shoes must be plain black with no motifs, coloured stitching or coloured /reflective areas.
- Black trainers or pumps of any kind are **not** permitted for boys or girls.
- Boots are **not** permitted as uniform shoes for boys or girls.
- The red line on the images above indicates how the top edge of the shoe should fit under the ankle bone.



School Bag

A student's main bag must be large enough to properly carry A4 exercise books, their student planner and equipment. Smaller bags are not appropriate as a main school bag. 'Handbag' or 'purse' type bags for girls are not appropriate as a main school bag. Equipment and books should not be carried in blazer pockets.

**General Note:** Outdoor clothing (coats, scarves, gloves etc.) may be worn outside the building but must be removed before entering the building. Items of outdoor clothing worn inside will be confiscated in line with the Academy Positive Discipline Policy

# EXPECTATIONS OF ACADEMY UNIFORM

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- Blazers must be worn at all times around the academy. Students can remove their blazers in class with staff permission but must have their ties on correctly and top button fastened
- Shirts and blouses must be tucked in at all times whilst in the building
- Shirts and blouses must fit properly and must have a top button and full collar
- If socks are visible underneath trousers, they should be plain and black or dark grey. Girls should wear black tights, or black or dark grey ankle socks when wearing skirts - over the knee socks are not appropriate
- Jewellery (including transparent studs) is not allowed in the academy for any student at any time for health and safety reasons. This includes all facial and body piercings. A single wristwatch may be worn. Any jewellery confiscated will be placed in an envelope and stored securely. It will only be returned to students on Friday at 2:30pm. A detention will be issued
- Without exception, all make-up is banned in KS3 (Years 7, 8 and 9); this includes false eyelashes. Nail varnish and/or false nails are not allowed.
- Students are only allowed to have natural hair colouring - greens, blues, reds, silver-shades etc. are not allowed. Inappropriate fashion hairstyles are also not allowed - these include, very short 'crew-cut' hairstyles, extreme styles, decorative shaved elements and motifs.

# EXPECTATIONS OF ACADEMY UNIFORM

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Students who arrive at the academy with incorrect uniform will be placed in Isolation. The Featherstone Academy does not accept notes from parents or carers explaining issues relating to uniform. If your child arrives at the academy without the correct uniform or hairstyle, for whatever reason, they will be removed to Isolation until the uniform or hairstyle has been corrected.

Adjustments may be considered in light of a diagnosed medical issue, but only when a member of the Pastoral team has seen a letter from a doctor, physiotherapist or other medical specialist to confirm that reason

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Mobile phones and smart watches will be confiscated if seen or heard during the school day, 8.00am-3.30pm (to include afterschool clubs, Period 7s, detention and isolation). A detention will be issued.

Confiscated items will only be returned to students at 2:30pm on the Friday that follows the confiscation

Items can be collected by students from Student Reception



Where an item has been confiscated because it is deemed to be dangerous or that it poses a risk to student safety (sharp objects, laser pens etc.), the item will only be returned to a parent or carer and only in person

# ACADEMY PE KIT

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## Compulsory uniform items for all students



Academy Crested PE Top



Navy PE Shorts



Navy Football Socks



Trainers  
(must be non-marking soles)



Football Boots  
(no metal studs allowed)



Shin Pads

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## Optional uniform items for all students

PE takes place indoors and outdoors all year round, therefore we advise that students keep warm by wearing extra layers underneath their PE kit.



- Plain navy or black skins/ base layers / leggings - no logos or motifs
- Plain navy or black sweatshirt - no logos or motifs
- Plain navy or black tracksuit bottoms - no logos or motifs
- Plain navy or black hat and gloves (no gloves allowed for rugby lessons)
- **For safety reasons, hoodies are not permitted at any time**

# EXPECTATIONS OF ACADEMY PE KIT

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- **Students must always bring their PE kit.** If students are excused from taking part physically due to a medical issue, **students will still be expected to bring their kit and get changed** which will allow them to be engaged in the learning of the lesson in a non-physical way
- Students will receive a comment for not having their correct PE kit. Three comments will result in an after school detention being issued in line with the Academy Positive Discipline Policy.
- If students forget their PE kit, they are expected to wear a spare kit provided by the academy. Refusal to wear a spare kit will result in an Isolation.
- The **correct** PE kit must always be brought to every PE lesson.
- Any students with long hair are expected to bring a hair bobble to every PE lesson to tie their hair back.

**PLEASE ENSURE ALL UNIFORM AND PE ITEMS ARE CLEARLY MARKED WITH YOUR CHILD'S NAME SO THEY CAN EASILY BE RETURNED TO THEM IF THEY ARE HANDED IN TO LOST PROPERTY**

# SCHOOL EQUIPMENT

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All students require the following items - daily equipment checks take place during form time to ensure students are ready and equipped for the day ahead.

Pencil case containing:

- 2 ballpoint pens
- 2 HB pencils
- An eraser
- A compass
- A protractor
- 30cm ruler
- Glue stick
- Pocket Dictionary
- Purple biro (not a felt tip pen)
- Pencil sharpener
- A highlighter
- A scientific calculator - Casio
- A reading book
- Wired headphones or earphones
- A refillable water bottle
- Whiteboard marker (non-permanent)

# SCHOOL EQUIPMENT

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## Student Planner

Student planners will be issued on their first day in August and will become their most important piece of equipment. Students must have their planners with them at all times. Planners must be checked and signed by parents/carers on a weekly basis. Please use the planner for communication with school. Replacement planners cost £7.00 - payable via ParentPay.

The Featherstone Academy has a feedback policy that requires students to respond to feedback in **purple pen**. Students must have a purple pen in every lesson.

Literacy is a foundational feature of the curriculum and accounts for a significant number of lessons. Students must have an **English dictionary** (pocket-size versions are recommended). Students must also have a **reading book** - they can borrow one from the school library if required.

Numeracy is a foundation of the curriculum and accounts for a significant number of lessons. Students must have a **Casio scientific calculator**.

Our ICT curriculum requires students to listen to certain types of digital media. Students must have **headphones or earphones** compatible with the school system for ICT lessons. They must have an audio jack - no Bluetooth headphones.

**Scissors should not be carried at any time** and will be provided by the classroom teacher when needed.

# TRAVELLING TO THE ACADEMY

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The Featherstone Academy catchment area means that students attend from around Featherstone, Streethouse, Pontefract, Ackworth and Sharlston. There are many different ways to travel to the Academy to make sure that you arrive safely and on time.



## 01 — On foot

Many of our students live within a mile of Featherstone and use this to their advantage by taking the healthy option of walking to the Academy. Being aware of the dangers associated with busy road networks like Pontefract Road and practicing good road safety is the key to staying safe.



## 02 — Cycle

A growing number of students cycle to the Academy. We do ask that students wear cycle helmets whilst cycling to and from the academy and they also bring personal locks to chain their bicycle up. Please note: bicycles/scooters are left at your own risk – we will not accept responsibility for damage or theft of bicycles/scooters.



## 03 — By car

Parents and carers may drop off and pick up their children at the Academy by parking in the swimming pool car park – you should not park on the turning circle or any area marked with double yellow lines. Cars should not enter the staff car park to drop off and pick up students without prior consent and only in exceptional circumstances. The car park gates are locked until 3.00pm each day.



## 04 — By bus

Please visit WY Metro website for information on public bus services which serve our academy and also to enquire about discounted fares:

[www.wymetro.com](http://www.wymetro.com)

**Remember, while you are wearing your uniform on the way to and from school you are representing the academy – any misconduct that brings the academy into disrepute will be dealt with in line with our Behaviour Policy.**

# SCHOOL DAY FOR YEAR 7

Bell sounds at:	YEAR 7
8.10am	Movement Bell
8.15am	REGISTRATION
8.45am	Period 1
9.35am	Period 2
10.25am	Period 3
11.15am	BREAK
11.35am	Period 4
12.25pm	Period 5 (split)
12.50pm	LUNCH
1.15pm	Period 5 (split)
1.40pm	Period 6
2.30pm*	* End of Academy Day After School Clubs (until 3.30pm) Detentions until 3.30pm Mon-Thurs until 4.00pm Fri (Principal's)

Break is shared with Years 10 and 11  
Lunch is Year 7 only

# ATTENDANCE

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All students should strive for 100% attendance at all times; attendance should not drop below the school target set for this academic year of **98%**. Missing 2% of school is equal to four full school days.

Your child should be in school even if they have a minor illness such as a headache, stomachache, cold, sore throat or period pains.

If your child feels ill in the morning with a minor illness, please provide them with appropriate pain relief / medication and send them to school - a consent form must be completed before we can administer medication (available from reception).

**If your child is too unwell to attend school, then please ring 01977 722812 before 9.00am;** to comply with safeguarding guidelines, please give your child's name, your relationship to the child, a reason for absence and the expected date of return.

Please update us every day your child is absent from school. The Attendance Team and other academy staff may visit any child who is absent from school.

**All appointments should be arranged outside the school day wherever possible.** We do expect your child to attend **before** and **after** the appointment – we are not able to authorise a full day's absence for a medical appointment.

Medical evidence should be provided for all appointments (appointment letter, card or text; medication packet) where appropriate - please email this to [attendance@featherstone.academy](mailto:attendance@featherstone.academy).

A form to request absence for exceptional circumstances is available from the Attendance Officer or the school website.

# Attendance Matters



## MAXIMISE YOUR POTENTIAL

### Attend School Everyday

Students across RMAT and nationally at this level of attendance have historically achieved:

Significantly above national average progress



Above national average progress



National average progress



Below national average progress



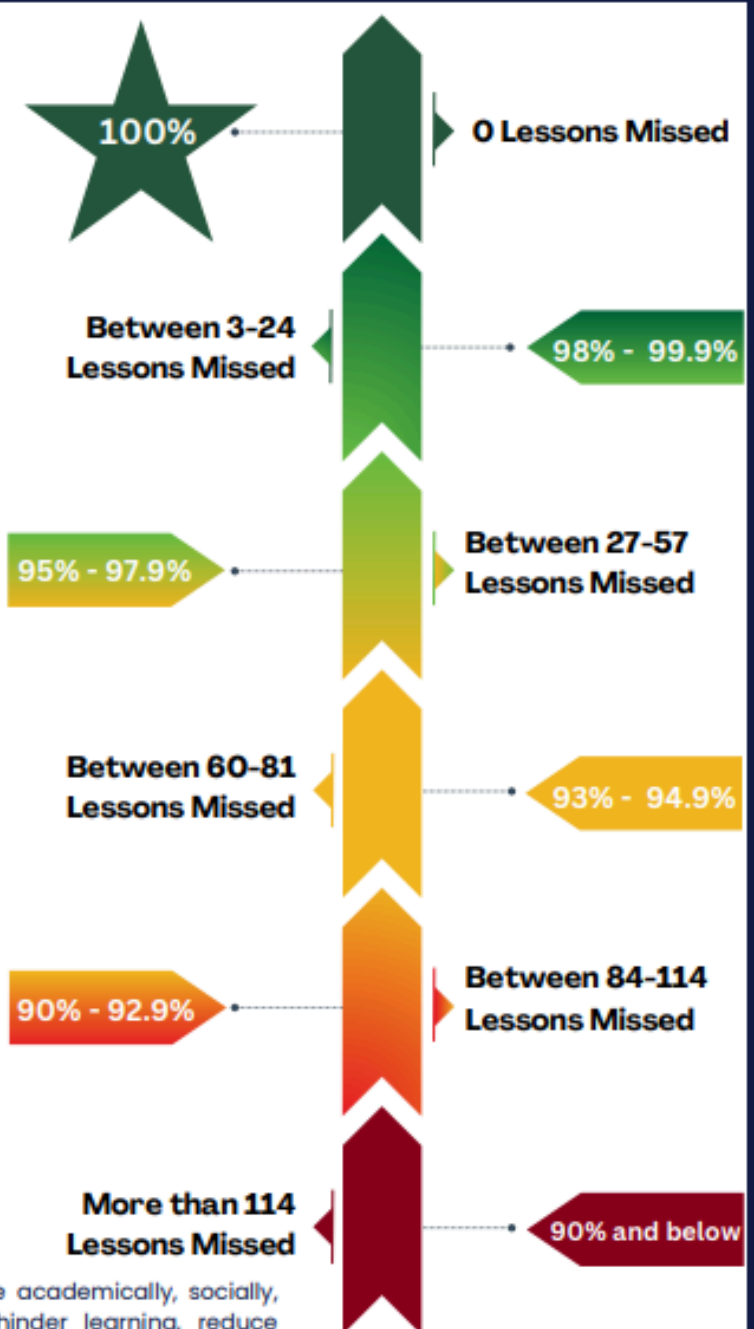
Significantly below national average progress



Very significantly below national average progress



Across the school year this means a student has missed at least:









Students with less than 90% attendance may struggle academically, socially, and in future opportunities, as frequent absences hinder learning, reduce motivation, and weaken their connection to school. Regular attendance is essential for success.



# Attendance Matters



Attendance at school is a priority for us. We want to give all our student's the best start in life, and we know that education and support from school can help to do this.

Description	Threshold Attendance	Actual Attendance	Whole Days Absent	Learning Lost (Lessons) <small>Across the school year actual lessons lost</small>
	100%	190 Days	0	0
	99%	188 Days	2	12
	98%	186 Days	4	24
	97%	184 Days	6	36
	96%	182.5 Days	7.5	45
	95%	180.5 Days	9.5	57
	94%	178.5 Days	11.5	69
	93%	176.5 Days	13.5	81
	92%	174.5 Days	15.5	93
	91%	173 Days	17	102
	90%	171 Days	19	114
	89%	169 Days	21	126
	88%	167 Days	23	138
	87%	165.5 Days	25	150
	86%	163.5 Days	26.5	159
	85%	161.5 Days	28.5	171



# ABSENCE DURING TERM TIME

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## PLEASE BE REMINDED THAT WE HAVE DIFFERENT TERM DATES TO OTHER SCHOOLS IN THE WAKEFIELD DISTRICT

Please note that absence will not be authorised except in exceptional circumstances. A fixed penalty notice for holidays taken in term time will be issued by the Local Authority. There is a possibility you will be prosecuted under Section 444(1) of the Education Act 1996 for repeat offences of unauthorised leaves of absence. A fine may be issued of up to £1,000 and receipt of a criminal record if a penalty notice remains unpaid and the matter is heard in court.

As part of our efforts to support families, we have structured our term times to support families to book holidays at non-peak times and prices. This includes a half term in June instead of the traditional May holiday week, alongside returning to school at the end of August, rather than September. This provides an additional week in the October half term. Please check your child's planner or the website for exact dates.

We share the Government's determination to increase student attendance at school. We want to give all our student's the best start in life, and we know that education and support from school can help to do this

Below is a reminder of the Penalty Notice National Framework which came into effect on 19 August 2024:

- **Per Parent/Per Child:** Penalty Notice Fines will continue to be issued per parent per child. For example, if three siblings are absent for term time leave, each parent will receive three separate fines.
- **First Offence:** The first time a Penalty Notice is issued for a term time holiday or irregular school attendance, the fine will be charged at £160 per parent, per child if paid within 28 days of issue, reducing to £80 if paid within 21 days.
- **Second Offence:** If a second Penalty Notice is issued to the same parent for the same pupil within 3 years of the first notice, the fine will be £160 per parent, per child if paid within 28 days (no reduced fee for paying early).
- **Third Offence:** On the third occasion of an offence within 3 years, a Penalty Notice will not be issued. Instead, the case may proceed straight to parental prosecution under the Single Justice Procedure. If found guilty, the Magistrates can impose a fine of up to £1000.

# ABSENCE DURING TERM TIME



## **Reporting Absence**

If your child is going to be **absent** from or **late** to the Academy, please call **01977 722812** to leave a voice message **before 9am**.

### **Remember to include:**

- Child's First Name and Surname
- Form Group
- Reason for absence / lateness; include any symptoms of illness
- If you would like our Attendance Team to call you back, please state this within your voice message.



Please note, that the Academy is **no longer able to accept any other method** of reporting absences or lateness. For example; emails, text messages, phone calls/voice messages to other Academy phone numbers.

Even if you have left a voice message, our Attendance Team **may call you to discuss** the absence further and/or complete a **home visit**.



## **Does your child have a medical or dentist appointment during the school day?**

**On the day** of the appointment, please call **01977 722812** to leave a voice message **before 9am**.



### **Remember to include:**

- Child's First Name and Surname
- Form Group
- Type of appointment
- The time you will be collecting your child from the Academy for the appointment.
- The approx. time your child is due back into the Academy.



**On the day** of the appointment, please write a note in your child's Planner.

### **Remember to include:**

- Date of the appointment
- Type of appointment
- The time you will be collecting your child from the Academy for the appointment.
- The approx. time your child is due back into the Academy.



Please remember to send **medical evidence** of the appointment (appointment card/letter/text) to [attendance@featherstone.academy](mailto:attendance@featherstone.academy)  
The Academy may not be able to authorise the absence without medical evidence.



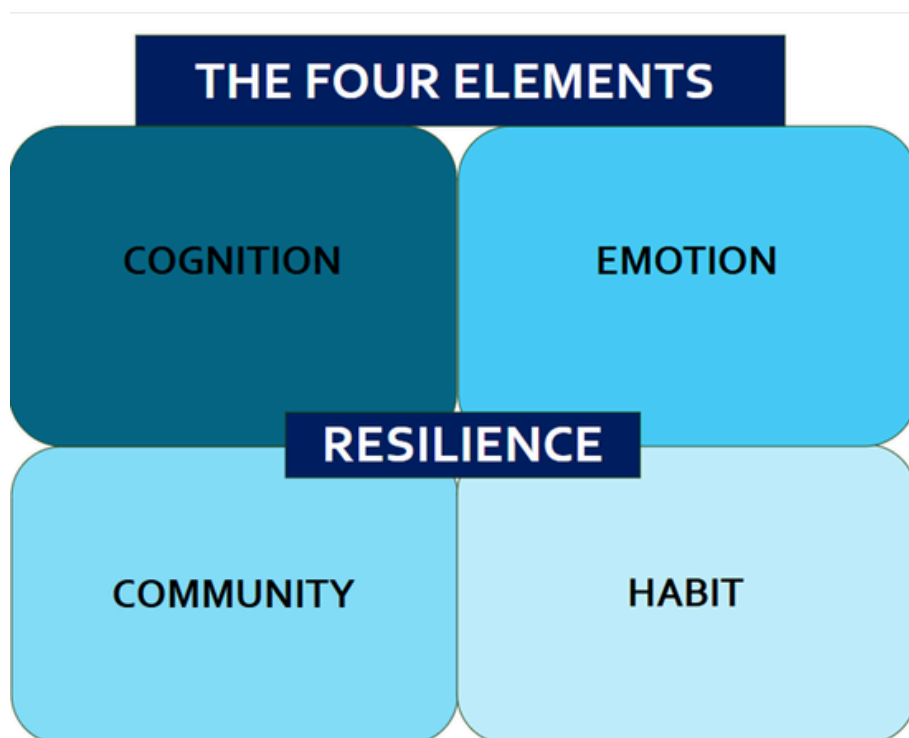
We encourage all parents/carers to **book their child's medical/dentist appointments outside of the school day**. We do understand that this is sometimes not possible.

# THE RESILIENCE CURRICULUM

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The approach taken by the Resilience Curriculum is to convey a body of knowledge about learning; to develop personal learning attributes and provide opportunities to practice new skills.

The Resilience Curriculum is delivered to students twice a week. The course is designed to develop the whole child, focusing on four main areas of resilience which we use on a daily basis.



With Resilience, students will see challenges where others see obstacles. They will seek knowledge instead of seeking 'help' and they will see failure as a part of the learning journey rather than the end of one.

Resilience is going to be a key aspect of students' development in Key Stage 3 and beyond.

# RESILIENCE ACTIVITIES

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## TRANSITION DAYS

Tuesday 30 June and Wednesday 1 July 2026

Our transition days allow your child the opportunity to meet their fellow Year 7 students and to experience life at The Featherstone Academy.

Students will enjoy a range of resilience activities that will stretch and challenge them to keep on trying.

## RESILIENCE CAMP

Wednesday 16 September to Friday 18 September 2026

This is a **three-day (two night) camp**, involving all of our new Year 7 students. Resilience will be the only focus of the camp, and activities and events will look to develop students' physical, intellectual, emotional and social resilience as they work together with new friends.

Resilience Camp is a **compulsory event that is free of charge to all students**. A kit list is provided on the next page. This year's camp takes place from **Wednesday 16 September until Friday 18 September 2026**.

Further details about Resilience Camp will be available at the Transition Evening on Tuesday 30 June 2026. All students are required to attend.

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# RESILIENCE CAMP KIT LIST

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## 01 — Basic items - essential

- Warm sleeping bag (tied and wrapped in strong bin liner and clearly named)
- Blanket or Karrimat for under the sleeping bag
- Fully **waterproof** cagoule or plastic mac

## 02 — Clothing

- Hardwearing trainers or walking boots
- Trousers / tracksuit bottoms / leggings - we do not recommend jeans
- Sweatshirt / jumpers
- T-shirts
- Long sleeved tops / base layers / skins to keep warm
- Shorts
- Pyjamas or separate tracksuit for sleeping in
- Underwear
- Socks - several pairs!
- Hat / gloves
- Wellington boots (optional)

Please be aware that some activities will involve getting wet during the day, so a change of clothes and shoes is required whilst other clothes dry.

## 03 — Personal hygiene (shower and wash facilities are available on site)

- Towel
- Shower gel/soap
- Shampoo
- Toothpaste and toothbrush

## 04 — Other items

- Rucksack - for carrying waterproofs, lunch, water bottle, etc.
- Torch and spare batteries
- Spare plastic bags for dirty/wet clothing
- Spare **strong** dustbin bag for sleeping bags on return journey clearly labelled with name
- A strap or belt for tying-up sleeping bag at the end of camp
- Pencil case, including pen, pencil, pencil sharpener, rubber, ruler

**ALL ITEMS SHOULD BE CLEARLY MARKED WITH YOUR CHILD'S FULL NAME**

# RESILIENCE CAMP KIT LIST

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## Other important information

### MOBILE PHONES

Mobile phones are banned and must not be brought to camp. They present the risk of theft, loss or damage and have caused significant disruption to the smooth running of camp in previous years.

An emergency mobile phone contact is available to and from camp. Numbers will be issued prior to camp.

### ELECTRICAL PRODUCTS

Students MUST NOT bring any electrical equipment such as iPods, MP3 players and PSPs.

#### Please note:

The Featherstone Academy will not accept any liability for, or spend time investigating incidents that lead to the theft, loss or damage of mobile phones or other electrical equipment brought to camp against our directions. Any such equipment found on site will be confiscated for the duration of camp and returned to students when we arrive back at school.

### LUGGAGE

Students must restrict their luggage to one small suitcase or holdall, a sleeping bag, and a small drawstring-type day sack or rucksack.

### SPENDING MONEY

Because of the shortness of the stay, and the fact that all food is provided we suggest that students bring no more than £3.00 which can be spent in the tuck shop on site (maximum of £1.50 per day), subject to opening hours. It is advised that they keep any money on their person at all times as The Featherstone Academy will not be responsible for any loss or theft of money.

# POSITIVE DISCIPLINE

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The Featherstone Academy follows the Positive Discipline policy which is in place across all Resilience Multi Academy Trust schools.

We do not, and will not, tolerate behaviour that disrupts learning.

Most young people need clear guidelines in terms of what is considered to be acceptable behaviour. We have written a clear set of classroom and around school rules.

## Academy Rules



- Be polite and respect the feelings of others
- Do as you are told by staff – first time, every time
- Wear your school uniform correctly at all times
- Eat and drink in the right place at the right time
- Look after property and put litter in bins
- Walk around the building quietly and sensibly

## Classroom Rules



- Arrive on time, fully equipped and ready to work
- Have your equipment and planner open on the desk, ready for a silent register
- Listen carefully when a member of staff or another student is talking
- Do your work well without disturbing others
- Put your hand up and wait for permission to speak
- Mobile phones and smart watches to be switched off and in bags at all times during the school day.

# Rewards System



	<p><b>The Major Awards Ceremony/Year 11 Prom/ Rewards Trip</b></p> <p>Awards to include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) 100% attendance/punctuality</li> <li>2) Subject prizes, effort/cross curricular commitments</li> <li>3) Extra curricular commitment</li> <li>4) Special achievement/Special Effort prizes</li> </ol> <p>The major award ceremonies will be held each year and information will be sent out in advance.</p>
	<p><b>Leadership Team Praise</b></p> <p>During the PD Praise and when appropriate, students may be sent to a member of the SLT for further praise. The Principal will also see students during this time.</p>
	<p><b>Head of Year/ Pastoral Team</b></p> <p>Regular rewards will be given by Head of Year/Pastoral Teams on a regular basis, including celebration assemblies, postcards home and other reward activities.</p>
	<p><b>Recorded in Planner</b></p> <p>Stamps = Certificates</p> <p>Bronze - 500</p> <p>Silver - 1000 (contact home)</p> <p>Gold - 1500 (contact home)</p> <p>Platinum - 2000 (SLT call home)</p> <p>Diamond - 2500 (SLT call home)</p> <p>Principal - 3000 (Principal call home)</p>
	<p><b>Ongoing Department Rewards System</b></p> <p>Each department has their own style of stamp. It is expected that all good work will be rewarded with a stamp, very good 2 and excellent at least 3. Working well with others and good oral answers will also be rewarded. Form Tutors will reward good attendance and a clean slate of no negative comments.</p>

- There will be a rewards trip each year to various venues. However, it is only available to students who have met the academy attendance target, achieved Silver and have not had an isolation, suspension or missed an academy detention.
- Praise phone calls will be made home when pupils achieve certain levels of stamps.
- Reward postcards are sent home by members of staff when it is considered appropriate to reward hard working students.



# Student Support



**Verbal Warning**  
- Supporting students needs by giving them a chance in each lesson, an appreciation that young people can and will from time to time get things wrong.

**Written warning**  
- This recording of student misdemeanours allows a student to make a clear choice as to their behaviour. The student can modify their behaviour at this point and receive no serious sanction.

There is a whole academy expectation that Form Tutors will challenge negative behaviour and promote positive behaviour. This intervention will take place during registration and the timetabled PD lesson.

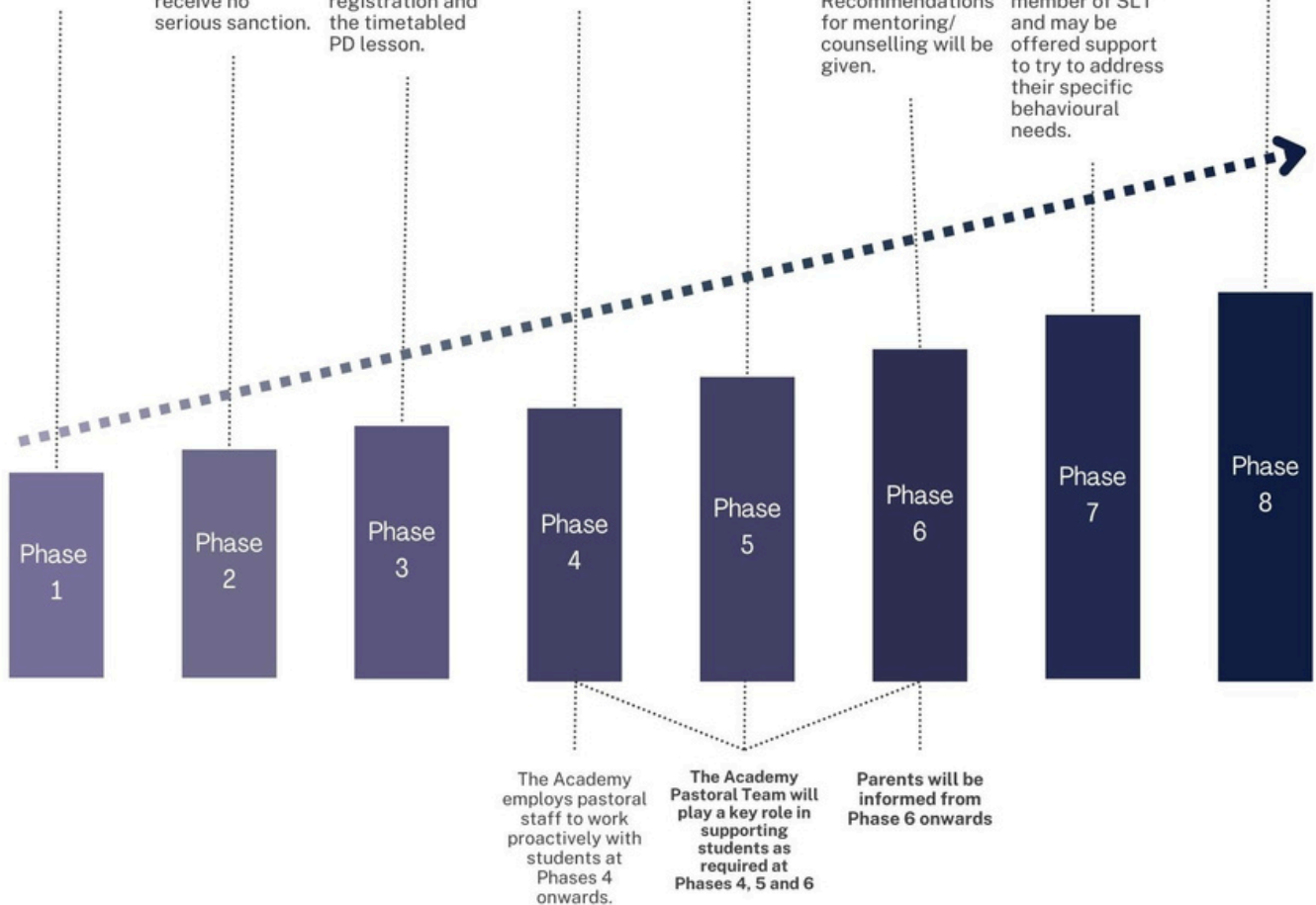
Any student who accumulates 2 same subject detentions in a 3 week period will be seen by either a Subject Leader or Head of Department.

Principal's detention will be monitored through the pastoral system.

Any student who goes into the Isolation Unit will be counselled by their Head of Year, a member of the Pastoral Team, a Leadership Team link or the senior member of staff responsible for PD as necessary. Recommendations for mentoring/ counselling will be given.

Any student who moves through the isolation hierarchy and onto contract will be supported on a daily basis by their Head of Year, a member of the Pastoral Team or an appropriate member of SLT and may be offered support to try to address their specific behavioural needs.

Students who are running the risk of **PERMANENT EXCLUSION** may be given an alternative curriculum.



The Academy expects that parents would play a key role in supporting students through the regular feedback they receive from the student planner.

Students can also be referred to External Agencies at any point by the Pastoral Team or the SENDCO.

Students that are reaching 5 or more days of suspension may be referred to the SEND department for specialist assessment using the SEND Referral Form.



# POSITIVE DISCIPLINE

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Further details of the Academy's expectations of behaviour are listed in greater detail in the student planner and in the behaviour policy which can be found on our website.

By following these rules, students will be equipped and prepared to learn and allow others to learn and teachers to teach. These rules also govern the way we should all behave in school between lessons and at breaks and lunchtime, as well as to and from school.

We believe that students who maintain these rules will be able to work together for success and can be rewarded accordingly.

When students misbehave, they can expect escalating consequences from a verbal warning to a suspension. Repeated misbehaviour within a lesson which disrupts the learning of others will lead to removal from lessons and time in Isolation. Certain behaviour will never be acceptable and will result in an automatic suspension.

At times, we have to accept that students will not behave or work in an acceptable manner. Sanctions for students are noted on the next page.

**ANY STUDENT FAILING TO MEET THE HIGH EXPECTATIONS OF ACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOUR, MAY NOT BE ELIGIBLE TO TAKE PART IN SCHOOL REWARD TRIPS AND EVENTS**



## Codes used in Student Planners

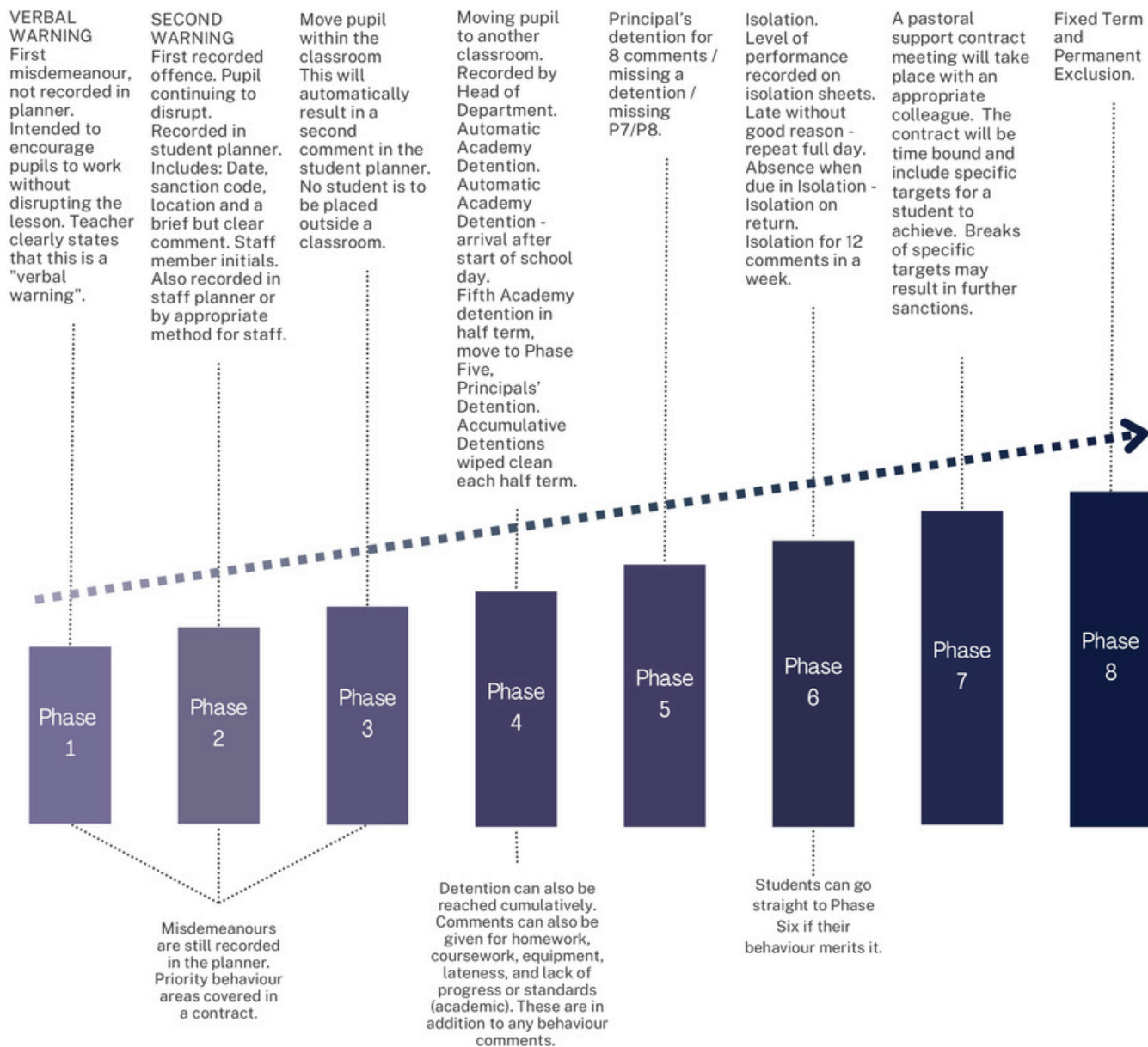
### Offence Codes

B	Behaviour
L	Late
H	Homework
AS	Around school
P	Lack of progress
E	Equipment
U	Uniform
S	Standards (academic)



# Sanctions

## Classroom Based Misdemeanor - Individuals



- Faculty links will pick up Phase Four.
- Any student refusing to go to a Phase Four will move to Phase Six.
- On-Call will pick up Phase Six.
- Students will complete work set through remote learning at the direction of the academy whilst serving Phase Eight fixed-term.
- Any 3 comments in any one subject in any half term leads to an academy detention.
- Any 3 comments in a lesson leads to Phase Four.

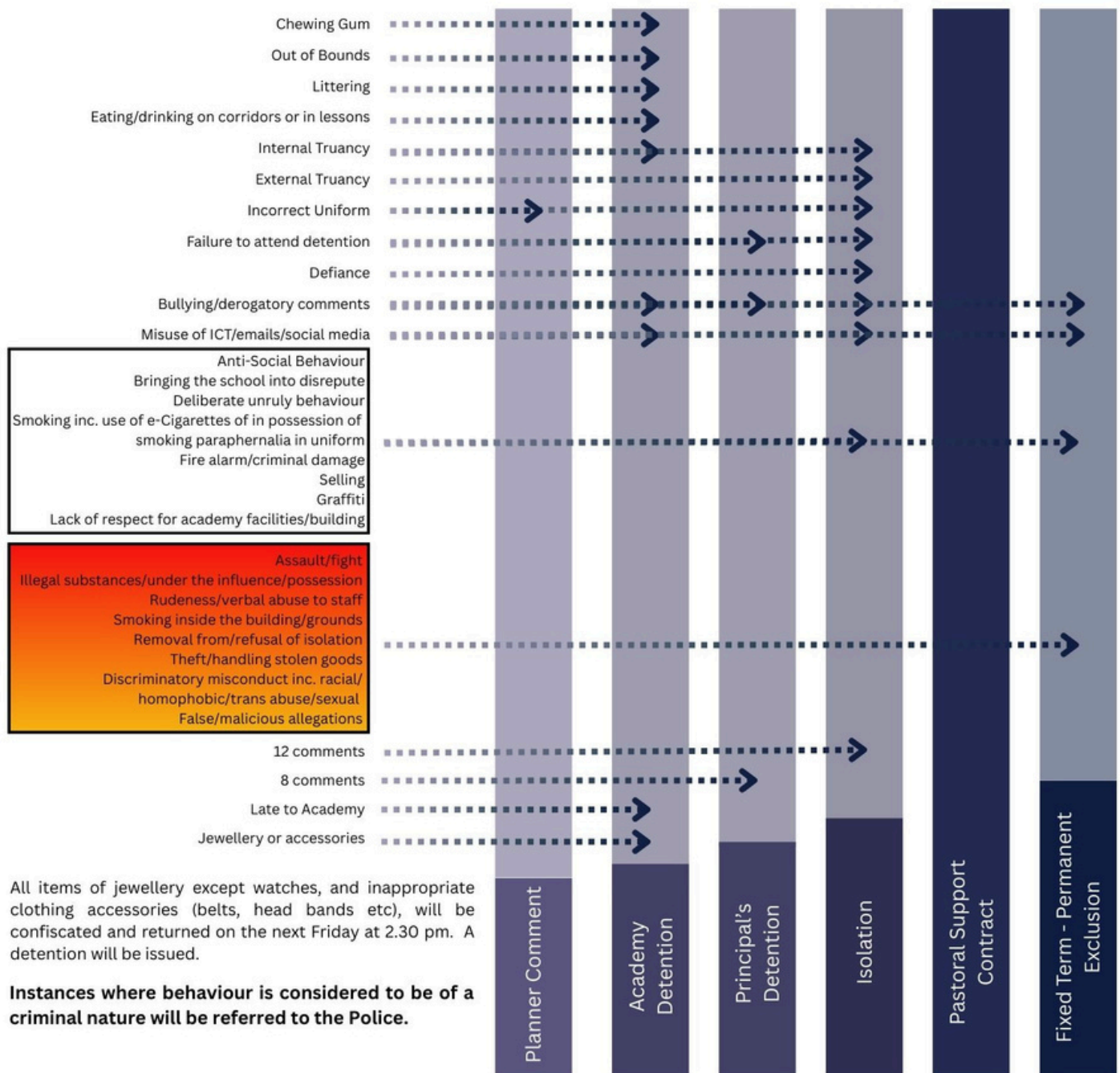


# Sanctions

## Misdemeanors Committed Around The Academy



**Mobile phones/smart watches/air pods or similar:** mobile phones/smart watch functions should be switched off and not be visible/heard/used from the start of the day, including in a period 7. Specific start times will be unique to each individual academy within the Trust. Any mobile phone/smart watch/air pod or equivalent function that is seen/heard/used during this time either being used or not will be confiscated. Confiscated mobile phones/smart watches/air pods or equivalent will be held by the Principal and returned at the end of the school day on the following Friday (or after a period 7 or detention).



All items of jewellery except watches, and inappropriate clothing accessories (belts, head bands etc), will be confiscated and returned on the next Friday at 2.30 pm. A detention will be issued.

**Instances where behaviour is considered to be of a criminal nature will be referred to the Police.**



# TECHNOLOGY

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To have access to the Internet in school, students must obey the following rules:



## 01 — Internet

- Students must not share their password with anyone else.
- Students must not download anything that is sexist, racist, indecent or abusive.
- Students must not download any screen saver, program or game without permission from an authorised person.
- Students must not do anything that may damage or harm the school ICT system.
- Students should only use sites and materials that are appropriate to their schoolwork.
- All Internet use is monitored and reported to the Principal.
- Deliberately damaging equipment is vandalism and will result in suspension and a bill for repair/replacement.
- Inappropriate use of the internet, including social media, games, unacceptable sites or damaging others work will result in detention, isolation or suspension. You may also lose the use of your internet access.



## 02 — Mobile phones and smart watches

We recognise that mobile phones may be necessary before and after school for some of our students - mobile phones are brought to school at your own risk.

Students are not allowed to use mobile phones or smart watches whilst in the school building.

- They must be switched off and out of sight from 8.00am until 3.30pm. Please note, mobile phones seen heard or used will be confiscated and returned at the end of the school day on Fridays at 2.30pm. If a student wants to contact home they must speak to a member of the pastoral team or student reception at break or lunch time.
- Smart watches are not permitted, however watches that measure steps are permitted as long as they do not connect to the internet.
- All contact with and by students during the school day, should be made through the school switchboard – 01977 698000

# CONTACT INFORMATION

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The Featherstone Academy  
Pontefract Road  
Featherstone  
West Yorkshire  
WF7 5AJ

Tel: 01977 698000 (main reception)  
Email: [info@featherstone.academy](mailto:info@featherstone.academy)  
Web: [www.featherstone.academy](http://www.featherstone.academy)

**Absences must be reported directly to the absence line only by 9am:  
01977 722812**

## **Reception opening hours:**

- Monday – Thursday 08.00 – 16.00
- Friday 08.00 – 15.30

**Meetings with staff are by appointment only** – please contact us to request this. If you require a return phone call, we will endeavour to get back to you within 48 hours.

## **Key staff at The Featherstone Academy:**

- Principal - Mrs J McCluskey
- Vice Principal - Mr K Paddy
- Assistant Principals - Mr A Robinson (Transition Lead); Mrs A Howarth; Mr C McColl
- Pastoral Team: Mr M Dunning, Head of KS3; Mr B Eaton, Pastoral Lead; Miss A Ballance, Safeguarding & Welfare Officer
- SEND Team: Mrs M Mumby, Senior SENDCo; Miss K Hughes, SENDCo; Mrs T Atkinson, Assistant SENDCo
- Attendance Officer Miss A Pirie

## **Other useful contacts:**

- Wakefield Council Admissions Team: 01924 306052
  - Home to School Transport: 01924 305643
  - Free School Meals: 01924 305061
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